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Security Information

17 April 1952

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Memorandum for the record

From: [REDACTED], Secretary
EIC Working Group on the Economic
Capabilities of the Soviet Bloc

Subject: Progress of the EIC Economic Capabilities Study

1. On 1 November 1951 the IAC instructed the EIC to undertake a project on the economic capabilities of the Soviet Bloc to support a general war (see IAC-M-50). Two studies were to be made, the first covering a war beginning 1 July 1952 and the second, a war beginning 1 July 1954. The deadline for the first study was set as 1 February 1952. No deadline was set for the second.

2. In November an EIC Working Group was established to organize and direct the project. It rapidly became clear that a respectable study could not be produced within the time specified by the IAC. On 11 December the Working Group recommended that the study of the period beginning 1 July 1952 be broken down into two phases, the first to cover a cold war and the second, a hot war. The first phase was to be completed by 24 March 1952, with contributions due to the Working Group by 3 March; the second phase was to be completed by 19 May, with contributions due by 14 April. The IAC approved these changes.

3. On 29 January 1952 the deadline for a first phase contribution from the military services, to be coordinated by Army, was set back to 22 March. The first phase was to be completed by the Working Group by 12 April, with publication of a summary by 30 April. Deadlines for the second phase were adjusted accordingly, with publication of a summary to occur around 20 June. Detailed appendixes to both summaries were to be published as soon as practicable, but no target dates were set. These changes in scheduling were noted in IAC progress reports.

4. The CIA contribution for the first phase was received in March. During that month, several delays in the military contribution were informally agreed to, the last target date being 7 April. A coordinated Army and Navy contribution was received on that date. Within the last week Air Force has reassigned its responsibility to Air Targets Branch, which has reported that no worth-while contribution can be produced in less than eight weeks and has

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therefore requested an extension of deadline to 13 June, which has been granted.

5. The Working Group expects to begin work on combining the Army, Navy, and CIA contributions during the next week. Because of substantial delays in critical parts of the study, it now appears that a summary of the cold war economic capabilities of the Soviet Bloc during the year 1 July 1952 to 1 July 1953 will not be completed before August 1952. The hot war phase will probably not be completed until late fall. The prospects for a study covering 1954 forward can scarcely be divined at this point.

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